

USSN. 10/701,523
 Examiner: RAMESH KRISHNAMURTHY
 Group A.U.:3753

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments and grounds of rejection raised in the Office Action dated May 13, 2005 have been carefully considered by the Applicant. Particularly, to further the prosecution of the present application the following remarks are submitted.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 4, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by FR. 2,189,652.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 to 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by FR. 2,189,652 in view of EP 0 717 821 B1.

The Examiner allowed claims 11 to 18 and 20 to 21.

The Examiner would allow claim 10 if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner rejects claims 11 and 19 under U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to reject claim 9 (and not claim 11) since the objected term "*said chamber*" is not present in claim 11 but, instead, it is present in claim 9.

In response to the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 19 to provide antecedent basis for the term "*said chamber*" by rendering such two claims dependent from claim 8 (instead than from claim 1) and from claim 18 (instead than from claim 11), respectively.

In response to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants have amended claim 1 to provide a better definition of the invention.

New independent claim 1 includes additional features that better identify the new valve disclosed in the application. Particularly, additional features describing the auxiliary valve 50 have been introduced in the second portion of the claim.

Support for the amendments is found, inter alia, on page 5, lines 9-28, in the drawings, and in the originally filed claims.

As the Examiner can appreciate, no new matter has been introduced while amending the claims.

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Applicant respectfully wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the technical problem solved by the present application.

According to the present invention, a spring-loaded pressure relief valve is obtained in which it is possible to act on the auxiliary valve without replacing the entire main valve or, in any case, with no need of complex maintenance interventions that are difficult to perform *in situ*.

An alternative embodiment of the relief valve of the present invention, which is shown in figures 2-5, further comprises a one-way valve which allows to achieve the additional advantage of acting and/or replacing the auxiliary valve without having to empty the container.

In fact, as it has been explained in the description, an object of the present invention is to provide a spring-loaded pressure relief valve that is capable of giving great assurance of reliability and safety in use.

In this regard, the auxiliary valve allows acting with maintenance work on the valve without the necessity of completely substituting the valve. In particular, with respect to the already known devices, it is more reliable to have the possibility to remove for repairing or for replacing the auxiliary valve without the necessity to replace the whole valve body.

Moreover, independent claim 1 clearly claims that the spring-load pressure relief valve according to the present invention is provided with a specially designed setting ring 57 which allows to set an opening pressure value for the auxiliary valve and to retain this setting value even if the auxiliary valve is removed.

The possibility of removing the auxiliary valve from the main valve body is not disclosed in FR 2,189,652.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully believes that the present invention as now claimed in new claim 1 is new over the prior art.

Furthermore, the advantages achieved by the claimed spring-loaded pressure relief valve with respect to the prior art, imply the non-obviousness of the present invention.

In fact, several advantages concerning the possibility to easily maintain the valve and in particular the possibility to easily act on the auxiliary valve, for example to remove it from the valve body in order to carry out maintenance operations, is a main advantage of the present invention over the known devices.

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Another advantage of the present invention is the possibility to set an opening pressure value for the auxiliary valve and to retain this setting value even if the auxiliary valve is removed. This advantage is achieved by means of the setting ring 57.

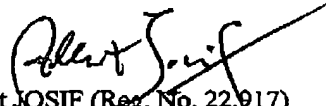
None of the prior art documents, either taken alone or in combination, teach to provide a device suitable to be set according to the operated pressure and to retain its setting even if the auxiliary valve is removed (description page 5, lines 22-28).

In view of the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully believes that new independent claim 1 clearly identify the structural elements that distinguish the valve of the present application with respect to the prior art and particularly over the disclosures of FR 2,109,652 in a non-obvious way.

In view of the foregoing remarks, new independent claim 1 and claims 2 to 10 dependent therefrom are deemed to be in condition for patent allowance, as well as Claims 11 to 21, which were already allowed by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is now in order for allowance, and a notice to this effect is respectfully expected.

Respectfully submitted,


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